

Barrington School Committee Meeting with Charter Review Commission

Board Room, Barrington Public Library

November 20, 2013

A meeting of the Barrington School Committee with the Town of Barrington Charter Review Commission was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 in the Board Room of the Barrington Public Library. The School Committee had adjourned its previous Executive Session in the Administration Building at 7:07pm to move in open session to its meeting with the Charter Review Commission. The School Committee joined the Charter Review Commission meeting at 7:12pm and present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida. Mr. Messoro, Mr. Tarro and Mrs. Katie Miller joined the School Committee for the joint meeting in the Board Room of the Barrington Public Library.

Charter Review Commission Chair Mr. Jeffrey Brenner informed the School Committee that the Charter Review Commission is charged by the Town Council to take an introspective look to review the scope and charge of the Town Charter every ten years. The Charter Review Commission will provide its rationale for all recommendations to the Town Council in 2014 and the Town Council will make the final decision relative to the identified recommendations of the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Brenner provided the Charter Review Commission and the School Committee with two reference points relative to specific recommendations that Mr. Fuller had shared with him via telephone prior to the meeting.

Mr. Brenner led the discussion relative to the language in the current Town Charter and proposed changes to the Town Charter, specifically in Title 9. Schools. He invited Mrs. Katie Miller, Director of Technology for the Barrington Public Schools, to share her perspective about technology, as the Charter Review Commission is gathering information about the municipal technology organization. Mrs. Miller provided the Committee with an update relative to discussions that she and Mr. Tarro have had during the past three years with Mr. Dean Huff, former Town of Barrington Finance Director, including the need to build a consolidated data center and consideration of a study to explore the consolidation of head end equipment location for protection of the most expensive assets. A strategic planning process incorporated and addressed comprehensive technology needs for the Barrington Public Schools.

Mr. Brenner asked Mr. Tarro to provide a brief description to his role with the school department and how it may be similar or different. Mr. Tarro explained that his role is much broader in scope than the town Finance Director. Mr. Tarro explained In addition to his various role he is responsible for the developing the full budget document.

Mr. Fuller departed the meeting at 8:15pm.

Mr. Brenner led the discussion and invited the School Committee to share input relative to the following Charter Title 9. Schools content areas:

Chapter 1. School Committee

9-1-1. Membership

9-1-2. Vacancies

9-1-3. Qualifications of School Committee Members

9-1.4. Compensation

Article 2. Powers and Duties

9-2-1. Powers and Duties in General

9-2-2. Organization and Rules

9-2-3. Regular Meetings of Committee

9-2-4. Appointment of Superintendent

9-2-5. Removal of Superintendent

9-2-6. Appointment and Removal of Other School Employees

9-2-7. Policy Making and Administration

9-2-8. School Budget

9-2-9. Cooperative Maintenance of School Grounds

9-2-10. School Purchasing

Mr. Guida departed the meeting at 8:35pm.

Mr. Brenner noted that the Financial Town Meeting will be the subject of the next meeting of the Charter Review Commission on December 9 and he extended an invitation to the School Committee to join the Town Council at that meeting for a discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm by the Charter Review Commission.